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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION
REFERENCE: CAIRO 11927
1. THERE FOLLOWS AS REQUESTED REFTEL, PRESIDENT'S THANKS-
GIVING PROCLAMATION.

2. QUOTE: THE WHITE HOUSE - THANKSGIVING DAY, 1975; BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, A PROCLAMA-
TION.

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO THE FRONTIER COLONIES OF AMERICA
BRACED FOR A LONG AND DETERMINED CONFLICT WITH THE
STRONGEST MILITARY POWER IN THE WORLD. THE PETITION OF OUR
FOUNDING FATHERS FOR REDRESS OF THEIR GRIEVANCES HAD BEEN
REJECTED BY KING AND PARLIAMENT, AND THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA
BEGAN THE STRUGGLE FROM WHICH EMERGED THIS GREAT NATION.

OUR NATION IS THE OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY SURVIVING REPUBLIC
IN THE WORLD. FOR 200 YEARS OUR FREEDOMS HAVE BEEN
QUESTIONED, CHALLENGED, TESTED AND REINFORCED. THESE
FREEDOMS HAVE SHAPED OUR DESTINY AND SERVED AS A BEACON TO
OTHER PEOPLES. OUR NATION DRAWS ITS STRENGTH FROM PEOPLE
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OF EVERY CREED, OF EVERY COLOR, OF EVERY RACE -- NATIVE

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AMERICANS AND PEOPLE FROM EVERY NATION IN THE WORLD WHO FOR

TWO CENTURIES HAVE COME TO SHARE IN THE REWARDS AND RE-
SPONSIBILITIES OF OUR AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

ON THE EVE OF OUR 200TH YEAR, THANKSGIVING DAY SHOULD BE
A DAY OF SPECIAL REFLECTION UPON THE QUALITIES OF HEART,
MIND AND CHARACTER OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUNDED AND
BUILT OUR GREAT NATION. LET US JOIN IN GIVING THANKS FOR
OUR CULTURAL PLURALISM. LET US CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY
AND THE GREAT STRENGTHS THAT HAVE COME FROM SHARING OUR
TRADITIONS, OUR IDEAS, OUR RESOURCES, OUR HOPES AND OUR
DREAMS. LET US BE GRATEFUL THAT FOR 200 YEARS OUR PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN DEDICATED TO FULFILLING THE DEMOCRATIC IDEAL --
DEDICATED TO SECURING QUOTE LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL.
UNQUOTE.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, IN ACCORD WITH SECTION 6103 OF TITLE 5
OF TE UNITED STATES CODE, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 27, 1975, AS A DAY OF NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.

LET EACH OF US, IN HIS OWN WAY, JOIN IN EXPRESSING
PERSONAL GRATITUDE FOR THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY AND PEACE
WE ENJOY TODAY. IN SO DOING, LET US REAFFIRM OUR BELIEF
IN A DYNAMIC SPIRIT THAT WILL CONTINUE TO NURTURE AND
GUIDE US AS WE PREPARE TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF OUR THIRD
CENTURY.

I CALL UPON ALL AMERICANS ON THIS DAY TO GATHER WITH
FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN HOMES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP AND
JOIN IN OFFERING GRATITUDE FOR THIS NATION'S COUNTLESS
BLESSINGS. I ASK THAT WE SHARE WITH OUR SENIOR CITIZENS
AND WITH THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN OURSELVES THIS SPECIAL
DAY THAT BRINGS US ALL CLOSER TOGETHER.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND THIS
FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN
HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE, AND OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE TWO HUNDREDTH. GERALD R.
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FORD. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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